

HO-810, House
6650 Highland Avenue, Elkridge
Howard County
Ca. 1890
Private

CAPSULE SUMMARY

This large, two-story, frame house has some unusual features and has perhaps had several major alterations. The current owner believes that the house was constructed in 1863 but there is no immediately obvious clue that this house predates the Harwood Park Subdivision platted in 1893. Its form can best be described as gable front and wing with an additional wing, so that the side gabled wings flank the center, front gabled section. The house rests on a brick foundation and faces south on the northwest corner of Highland and Beechfield. One of the major anomalies of this house is the roofline. The east wing of the house actually has a hipped roof with a blank gabled dormer facing east. The center, front-gabled, section of the house has a gabled roof which runs perpendicular to the rooflines of the east and west wings, and it is notable that the ridge of the roof of the gable front section is actually several feet higher than the ridgelines of the wings.

The house at 6650 Highland Avenue is significant under criteria A and C in the areas of architecture and community planning. Architecturally, the house is an interesting example of a late 19th century suburban two-story frame house with some Victorian influences. The house is also significant because of its location in the Harwood Park subdivision, one of the earlier subdivisions in Howard County, and a representative example of the type of affordable subdivisions laid out along railroad lines in close proximity to big cities all over the United States.

Maryland Historical Trust

Inventory No.

HO-810

— Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic House

other

2. Location

street and number 6650 Highland Avenue not for publication

city, town Elkridge vicinity

county Howard

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mary Hood and Paul D. Hood and wife

street and number 6650 Highland Avenue telephone

city, town Elkridge state MD zip code 21075

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse tax map and parcel: Map 38, P873

city, town Ellicott City liber 339 folio 91

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-810

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This large, two-story, frame house has some unusual features and has perhaps had several major alterations. The current owner believes that the house was constructed in 1863 but there is no immediately obvious clue that this house predates the Harwood Park Subdivision platted in 1893. Its form can best be described as gable front and wing with an additional wing, so that the side gabled wings flank the center, front gabled section. The house rests on a brick foundation and faces south on the northwest corner of Highland and Beechfield. The walls are clad in unpainted cedar shakes and the roof is asphalt shingle. There are decorative shingles in the front facing gable. One of the major anomalies of this house is the roofline. The east wing of the house actually has a hipped roof with a blank gabled dormer facing east. The center, front-gabled, section of the house has a gabled roof which runs perpendicular to the rooflines of the east and west wings, and it is notable that the ridge of the roof of the gable front section is actually several feet higher than the ridgelines of the wings.

The front (south) façade of the house shows all three sections and has numerous windows. A single story hipped roof porch wraps around the south and east facades of the east wing of the house. This porch has a standing seam metal roof but is now enclosed and obscures the first story façade. The front door is currently on the south façade of this enclosed porch and it is assumed that the original front entrance to the house is on the south façade of the east wing that is now obscured by the porch. The second story of the east wing's south façade features two 1/1 double hung wood windows. The center, front-gabled, section of the house is three bays wide on this façade with three windows vertically aligned on both the first and second stories. Bulkhead access to the basement is also located on this façade. Paired two-light awning windows are located in the gable. A large corbelled brick chimney pierces the roof at approximately the point where the ridgelines of the center section and east wing meet. The south façade of the west wing of the house is two bays wide with two 6/1 wood windows on the second story and two 6/1 windows and a centered door on the first story. A single story shed roofed porch shelters the first story of the wing. The porch has turned supports, but they do not all match and one or two even appear to be upside down. A small shed roofed addition across the west façade of the west wing is partly enclosed and connects to the porch where it appears to be used as a shed for storage.

The west façade of the house is blank with no windows on the second story and the one story addition obscuring the first story.

The narrow east façade is only two bays wide on the east wing of the house. The two windows on the second story are 1/1 double hung wood units. What appears to have originally been a gabled dormer in the roof is now blank with no window. The enclosed porch obscures the first story of this façade. The narrow visible portion of the east façade of the center section of the house is blank.

The north façade is flush all the way along the full depth of the house, unlike the south façade. The brick foundation is clearly visible on this façade and there are no obvious seams indicating that any portion of the house is an addition. There are relatively few windows on this façade compared to the south façade. Only two 1/1 double hung wood windows are found on the entire second story, while four windows are found on the first story. The roofline appears to be one continuous ridge running east-west from the end of the east wing to the end of the west wing. This side of the house lacks any decoration.

Two frame outbuildings are currently located on the lot. One is a relatively modern shed with no historic value but the other, located directly beside the west wing of the house, may be an old chicken coop dating to the late 19th or early 20th century.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-810

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates ca. 1890

Architect/Builder unknown

Construction dates ca. 1890

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The house at 6650 Highland Avenue is significant under criteria A and C in the areas of architecture and community planning. Architecturally, the house is an interesting example of a late 19th century suburban two-story frame house with some Victorian influences. The house is also significant because of its location in the Harwood Park subdivision, one of the earlier subdivisions in Howard County, and a representative example of the type of affordable subdivisions laid out along railroad lines in close proximity to big cities all over the United States.

The Harwood Park subdivision is located in Elkrige bounded by Route 1 on the north, the railroad on the south, and recent industrial parks on the east and west. The historic settlement of Elkrige Landing is located approximately 2 miles to the east along Route 1. Harwood Park was one of several early subdivisions in Howard County platted in the 1890's as part of the expanding wave of suburbanization across the country.

The suburban movement in community planning in the United States traces its roots back to the mid-19th century and the Romantic landscape movement. The suburban ideal consisted of substantial single family houses located on large lots on curvilinear streets in park-like settings. The two developments widely recognized as the prototypes are Llewellyn Park (1857) in New Jersey and Riverside (1869) west of Chicago in Illinois. This ideal appealed greatly to the middle class and inspired an aspiration for semi-rural living away from the noise, crime, and filth of the fast-growing cities, but still close enough to them for commuting purposes. Ease of commuting was the key to early suburban success. As transportation became more advanced and travel became easier and faster, the suburbs moved further and further away from the cities. The earliest suburbs were served by horse-drawn cars and the railroad, then came the electric streetcar, and finally, by the 1920's, the automobile. (1)

The suburban ideal in its highest form was beyond the financial means of most of the middle class and certainly all of the working class, but savvy developers found ways to create more affordable subdivisions while still appealing to the ideal of better living. These affordable developments usually relied on a rectilinear plan in lieu of the curving streets and park-like setting touted by the idealists, and the houses were smaller, though still detached single family dwellings, and located closer together on narrow lots. (2) Advances in building technology also made single-family houses increasingly affordable. Architecturally, the balloon framing method made domestic construction faster and cheaper, and mass produced decorative details popularized by pattern books and turned out in quantity by saw mills across the nation, lent many of the late 19th century developments a similar flavor. The increasing use of the railroad to transport both raw and dimensioned lumber, as well as the finished stock of doors, window sash, porch supports, and decorative brackets contributed to the suburban boom.

Suburban development continued at a steady pace across the nation during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The proximity of various locales to booming cities and transportation routes determined the rate of suburban growth in those areas. The rise of the automobile during the 1920's made the construction of new suburbs away from the railroads a viable possibility and the population

Maryland Historical Trust

Inventory No HO-810

— Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name House

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

continued to settle further and further away from the city centers. The big boom in suburban development across the country came post-World War II when the massive numbers of returning soldiers created a seemingly insatiable demand for the independence and middle class status associated with home ownership. Architecturally, the trend in the affordable subdivisions was towards increasingly modest houses built on a small scale with minimal decoration. Particularly during the Depression of the 1930's, the minimal trend helped to keep home ownership affordable for a larger portion of the population. Likewise, post-war subdivisions also exhibit mostly minimal cottages and ranchers affordable for returning soldiers and their young families. (3)

The subdivision of Harwood Park, originally called simply Har-wood, was platted in 1893 on 125 acres of land owned by the Kyne family. Har-wood was one of many suburbs laid out along important transportation routes in the late 19th century; in Howard County, the small subdivision of Anderson, down near Hanover on the Howard County side of the tracks, was laid out beside the railroad around 1871 and the subdivision of North Laurel, located, as the name suggests, just north of Laurel, was platted in 1891. (4) In Har-wood, more than 1000 individual lots were laid out by the Boston Land Improvement Company in the subdivision named for two of the company's owners, William Harmon and Charles Wood. The appeal of the subdivision was certainly its location on the railroad line running into Baltimore. There was a stop on the railroad in the Har-wood development; it is unknown if a proper station was ever built, but the stop was apparently located at the end of Beechfield Avenue. Residents of the neighborhood could commute to both Baltimore and Washington D.C. with ease on the train. (5) In addition, the Washington Turnpike, the major thoroughfare that would become Route 1 in the 1930's, was located on the northern edge of the development, providing residents with easy access to not one but two major transportation routes of the day.

Like many early subdivisions, deed covenants were used to restrict the types of development that could occur in Har-wood, and an 1894 deed states "owners shall not permit to be erected on any part of the assigned ground, or any part thereof, any tavern, saloon, tannery, slaughter house, skin dressing, glue, soap, candle or starch manufacturing establishment, or any other building for offensive purpose or occupation." (6) In addition, houses built in Har-wood had to cost at least \$800. Har-wood was clearly conceived as one of the affordable suburbs mentioned above intended to make the suburban ideal available to a wider portion of the middle class. The rectilinear plan of the streets and numerous small, narrow lots are good indicators of the clientele the developers were hoping to attract. It is unknown how many lots were actually sold and developed during the first decade of the subdivision's existence. There are certainly some dwellings still standing that date to the 1890's, but today a vast majority date to the 1940's and 1950's. According to an elderly resident, there were only around 15 homes built in Har-wood by 1912, and by 1925 only 5 houses were located along all of Athol Avenue. (7) For the first 50 years of its life then, the neighborhood of Har-wood must have retained a very rural feel. The railroad faded from prominence as a mode of transportation during the early 20th century with the development of the automobile and automobile suburbs away from the railroads became increasingly popular. It is notable that the houses constructed in Har-wood became increasingly modest during the early 20th century. There are less than 10 two-story Folk Victorian dwellings in all of Har-wood; those houses constructed in the 20's and 30's were more often minimal one story bungalows or cottages. The upper middle class, those more likely to build large houses in the Victorian or Colonial Revival styles, was obviously looking elsewhere. But Har-wood certainly came into its own during the post-war years of suburban development and the modest cottages and ranchers of this period dominate the landscape. The name of the neighborhood was changed to Harwood Park by 1940.

The house at 6650 Highland Avenue is an interesting example of one of the early two-story, Folk Victorian dwellings erected in Harwood Park. Probably one of the earliest houses built in the neighborhood, this dwelling is notable for its gable-front and double wing form and its unusual roofline. It is relatively large but still has a very linear, as opposed to boxy, form, well suited to a long narrow lot in a subdivision.

1. David L. Ames and Linda Flint McClelland, NATIONAL REGISTER BULLETIN: HISTORIC RESIDENTIAL SUBURBS (National Park Service, 2002).

Maryland Historical Trust

Inventory No HO-810

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name House

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.

4. For information on Anderson see Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties forms HO-786, HO-787, HO-792, HO-793, and HO-794. For information on North Laurel see form HO-799.

5. All information on the history of Harwood Park is from the Harwood Park Neighborhood Improvement Association website (<http://www.geocities.com/harwoodparkelkridge>), History section, prepared by Betsy McMillion. A hard copy of this section is filed in the Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning with the inventory forms, behind HO-808.

6. Ibid.

7. Ibid.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-810

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.5

Acreage of historical setting unknown

Quadrangle name Relay

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

8 lots - Lots 550-557. It is unknown how many lots were originally conveyed as part of this property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kristin Hill, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning

date 12/9/03

street and number 3430 Court House Drive

telephone 410-313-4335

city or town Ellicott City

state MD zip code 21043

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-810

Name House

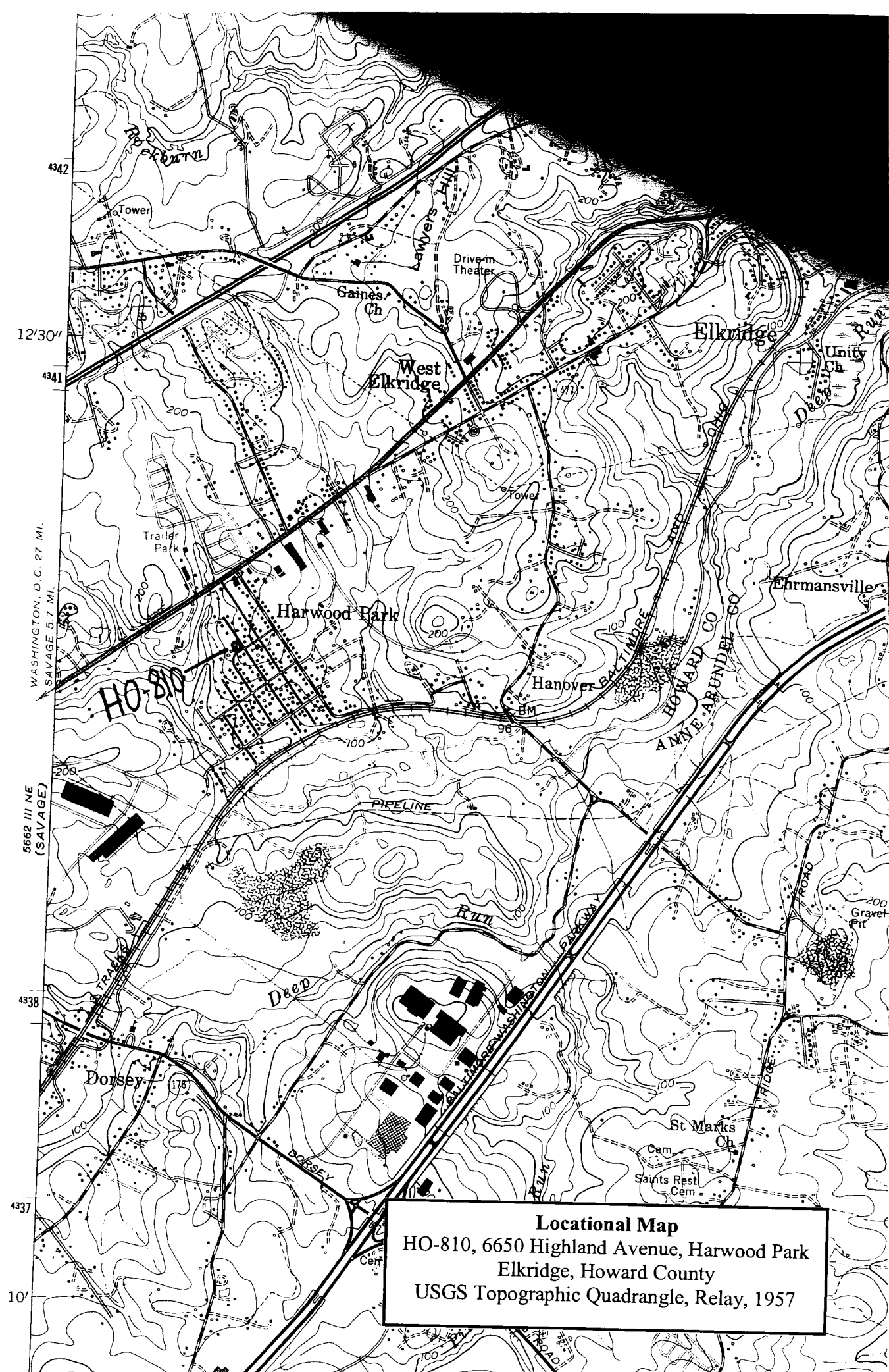
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

Ames, David L. and Linda Flint McClelland, NATIONAL REGISTER BULLETIN: HISTORIC RESIDENTIAL SUBURBS (National Park Service, 2002).

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Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties forms HO-786, HO-787, HO-792, HO-793, HO-794 and HO-799.





HO-810, House
6650 Highland Avenue, Harwood Park
Elkridge, Howard County, Maryland

05 21+00 NNNNN 00+12 50

Kristin Hill, 12/03
Negative at MDS400

SE elevation

1/7



HO 810, House

6650 Highland Avenue, Harwood Park

Elkridge, Howard County, Maryland

Kristin Hill, 12/03

Negative at MDSHPD

SE elevation

2/7



HO-810, House

6650 Highland Avenue, Harwood Park
Elkridge, Howard County, Maryland

Kristin Hill, 12/03

Negative at MDSH60

SE elevation

3/7

88 12+10 10000000 124



H0-810, House

6650 Highland Avenue, Harwood Park
Elkridge, Howard County, Maryland

Kristin Hill, 12/03

Negative at MDSHPD

South (front) elevation

4/7



HO-810, House

6650 Highland Avenue, Harwood Park

Elkridge, Howard County, Maryland

Kristin Hill, 12/03

Negative at MDSHPD

SW elevation

5/7



HO-810, House

6650 Highland Avenue, Harwood Park
Elkridge, Howard County, Maryland

Kristin Hill, 12/03

07 21+00 NNNNN 174

Negative at MOSH00

East elevation

6/7



HO-810, House

6650 Highland Avenue, Harwood Park

Elkridge, Howard County, Maryland

Kristin Hill, 12/03

Negative at MOSHPO

NE elevation

7/7

05 21+01 NNNNN 10+12 90